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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/583,168	05/14/2007	Franck Bouquerel	1022702-000307	5101
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EXAMINER LSTVOYB, GREGORY				
ART UNIT 1796		PAPER NUMBER		
NOTIFICATION DATE 02/03/2010		DELIVERY MODE ELECTRONIC		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

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Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/583,168

Applicant(s)

BOUQUEREL ET AL.

Examiner

GREGORY LISTVOYB

Art Unit

1796

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 15 January 2010.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 29-54 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 53 and 54 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 29-52 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/GS-08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 10/08/2009

- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

Claims 53-54 withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b), as being drawn to a nonelected method of making a precursor article, there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Applicant timely traversed the restriction (election) requirement in the reply filed on 1/15/2010.

Applicant's election with traverse of method of making a precursor article in the reply filed on 1/15/2010 is acknowledged. The traversal is on the ground(s) that that examination of all claims together in a single application will not pose a serious burden. This is not found persuasive because the invention as claimed in independent claim 1 does not define a special technical feature distinguishing the claimed invention over the prior art. The precursor article as claimed in claim 29 are fully anticipates by or being obvious over, for example, disclosure of WO 03/029350 to Myard et al (cited in IDS).

The requirement is still deemed proper and is therefore made FINAL.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 29-35, 37, 39-41 and 43-52 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Myard et al (WO 03/029350) cited in IDS, document cited with equivalent US 7323241).

Regarding Claims 29-33, Myard discloses a precursor article of a composite material comprising a polymeric matrix and at least one reinforcing yarn and/or fibers and the article comprising at least one reinforcing yarn and/or fibers and at least one polymeric-matrix yarn and/or fibers (see Claim 1), where:

the reinforcing yarn and/or fibers are made of reinforcing material and optionally include a part made of a thermoplastic polymer (linear polyamide, such as PA4,6, PA 6, etc, see claim 10, meeting the limitations of claims 43-44)

the polymeric-matrix yarn and/or fibers are made of a thermoplastic polymer (polyamide, see claim 1).

Regarding structure (1) claimed in claim 29, Myard teaches star-polyamide. This structure is not prohibited by the above claim, because A is defined as an aliphatic hydrocarbon radical, which can optionally include heteroatom.

Note that structure (II) of claims 29-31 is not required, since 0% mol content of this structure is included.

Regarding Claim 34, Myard teaches R2 as a pentamethylene radical (i.e. ϵ -caprolactam derivative, see Example 1, where modified polycaprolactam PA6 is disclosed, see Column 7, line 25).

In reference to claim 35, Myard teaches structure IIIb (see Column 4, line 30).

Regarding claims 37 and 41, Myard discloses that the polyamide is obtained by melt-blending (extrusion) of the polymer with a reactive monomer (see Claim 4).

In reference to claim 45, Myard teaches flame retardants, stabilizers, etc (see Column 6, line 5).

Regarding Claims 46-47, Myard teaches reinforcing yarns, such as natural yarn, hemp or flax yarns (see Column 6, line 15).

In reference to claims 48-49, Myard claims powdered polyamide (see Column 6, line 20).

Regarding claims 50-52, Myard teaches a continuous or chopped yarns and a composite, made by at least partial melting of the matrix yarn (see Column 6, lines 25 and 30) and the level of reinforcing material by weight of between 25 and 80% (see Column 6, line 45).

Claims 29-52 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Thoma et al (US 3893981).

Thoma discloses the formation of a polymer matrix that has recurring structural units that have close structural similarities to the generic formula (I) of present claim 29. See for example, column 4, lines 32-60. Also, Thoma discloses the polycondensation of monomers that are of the same type as those disclosed by applicants as being suitable, such as lactams. Accordingly, the examiner has reason to believe that the resultant polymer is the same as or substantially similar to that claimed by applicants, and would have the same properties as the polymer of the generic formula (I).

"When the claimed and prior art products are identical or substantially identical in structure or composition, or are produced by identical or substantially identical processes, a prima facie case of either anticipation or obviousness has been established. In re Best, 562, F.2d 1252, 1255, 195 USPQ 430, 433 (CCPA 1977).

"When the PTO shows a sound basis for believing that the products of the applicant and the prior art are the same, the applicant has the burden of showing that they are not". In re Spada, 911 F.2d 705, 709, 15 USPQ2d 1655, 1658 (Fed. Cir. 1990). See MPEP 2112.01.

Regarding claim 29, Thoma discloses up to 100 mol% of the polyamide structural units. See column 2, lines 49-57.

Thoma discloses that his polyamide is obtained by copolymerization from a mixture that includes a difunctional compound that can be a monomer of b) or b'), such as adipic acid, sebacic acid, isophthalic acid or terephthalic acid. Thomas further discloses that this compound is present in an amount of 1.0 to 2.0 mol%. This teaching would render obvious the requirement of claim 30 of between 0.05 and 1 mol%, because the 1 mol% as taught in the prior art is sufficiently close to applicants' upper limit of 1mol% that the skilled artisan would reasonably expect the properties of the resultant polyamide to be the same or substantially similar. See column 3, lines 45 through column 4, and line 10.

Regarding claim 37, the phrase "melt- blending" is drawn to the method of making the polyamide, thereby resulting in a product-by-process claim. "[E]ven though product-by-process claims are limited by and defined by the process, determination of

patentability is based on the product itself. The patentability of a product does not depend on its method of production. If the product in the product-by-process is the same as or obvious from a product of the prior art, the claim is unpatentable even though the prior product was made by a different process." In re Thorpe, 777 F.2d 695, 698,227 USPQ 964,966 (Fed. Cir. 1985). See MPEP 2113. There is no clear difference in the end product, i.e. the yarn of the prior art and that of the present invention. In addition, as set forth above, and incorporated herein, Thoma discloses that the difunctional compound can be present in amount within the claimed range set forth in present claims 39-41. Note Example 1, which teaches the adipic acid present in an amount of about 0.8 wt% with respect to the weight of the polyamide. As to claim 35 and the compound of formula (V), the teaching at column 3, lines 55-62 of Thomas render obvious this requirement.

Regarding claims 50-51, Thoma discloses the formation of articles comprising his yarns, such as textiles and fabrics, or foils. This teaching renders obvious the formation of a felt (claim 38), fabric (claim 41) and a net (claim 42). Therefore, the teachings of Thoma would have rendered obvious the invention as claimed in present claims 29-52.

. Claims 29-52 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cucinella et al. (US 6160080).

Regarding independent claim 29, Cucinella discloses a polyamide that can be used to make yarns, said polyamide being formed from a polycondensate having

macromolecular chains that are structurally similar to those of formula (I) of present claim 29. See entire document, and for example, columns 1-4 and column 5, line 12.

Cucinella discloses that the polyamide is present in an amount of 30% and 80% by mass of with respect to the total mass of the polymer (See claim 14). It is the examiner's position that the weight percents taught by Cucinella would result in a mol% that is at least 45 mol%. Moreover, it is the examiner's position that where the general conditions of a claim are disclosed in the prior art, it is not inventive to discover the optimum or workable ranges by routine experimentation. In re Aller, 105 USPQ 233 (CCPA 1955).

Regarding claim 34, Cucinella discloses that R2 can be a pentamethylene radical. (See claim 3 and column 2, lined 56-60).

Regarding claims 29-32, Cucinella discloses that his polyamide can be obtained by copolymerization of a mixture of monomers comprising a polyfunctional compound and monomers having structures that are the same as or substantially similar to formulae (IIa) and (IIb). See column 3, lines 37-63. Regarding claim 36 and 42, Cucinella teaches that the compound is present in small amounts, such as less than 20% by weight (See column 4, line 66 through column 5 and line 2). It is the examiner's position that amounts of less than 20% by weight would fully embrace the present claimed 0.05 and 1 mol%.

Regarding claim 41, the phrase "melt- blending" is drawn to the method of making the polyamide, thereby resulting in a product-by-process claim. "[E]ven though

product-by-process claims are limited by and defined by the process, determination of patentability is based on the product itself. The patentability of a product does not depend on its method of production. If the product in the product-by-process is the same as or obvious from a product of the prior art, the claim is unpatentable even though the prior product was made by a different process." In re Thorpe, 777 F.2d 695, 698, 227 USPQ 964, 966 (Fed. Cir. 1985). See MPEP 2113. There is no clear difference in the end product, i.e. the yarn of the prior art and that of the present invention. Claims 32 and 36 are reliant upon the process limitations of present claims 31 and 35. In addition, as set forth above, and incorporated herein, Cucinella discloses that the polyfunctional compound can be present in amount within the claimed range set forth in present claims 36, 38 and 42, i.e., less than 20 wt%. As to claim 35 and the compound of formula (V), the teaching at columns 3-4, render obvious this requirement.

Regarding claims 50-51, Cucinella discloses that the polyamide can be used in the formation of yarns and various articles. As to the specific articles, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in this art at the time the invention was made to form yarn into various known products such as textiles, carpet, rope, felts, etc. during routine experimentation and is not construed to be a matter of invention, in the absence of specific properties that are directly related to these end products.

Therefore, the teachings of Cucinella would have rendered obvious the invention as claimed in present claims 29-52.

Double Patenting

Claims 29-35, 37, 39-41 and 43-52 rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-23 of U.S. Patent No. 7323241. Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because Myard discloses a precursor article of a composite material comprising a polymeric matrix and at least one reinforcing yam and/or fibersand the article comprising at least one reinforcing yam and/or fibers and at least one polymeric-matrix yam and/or fibers (see Claim 1), where:

the reinforcing yam and/or fibers are made of reinforcing material and optionally include a part made of a thermoplastic polymer (linear polyamide, such as PA4,6, PA 6, etc, see claim 10, meeting the limitations of claims 43-44)

the polymeric-matrix yam and/or fibers are made of a thermoplastic polymer (polyamide , see claim 1).

Regarding structure (1) claimed in claim 29, Myard teaches star-polyamide. This structure is not by the above claim, because A is defined as an aliphatic hydrocarbon radical, which can optionally include heteroatom.

Note that structure (II) of claims 29-31 is not required, since 0% mol is included.

Regarding Claim 34, Myard teaches R2 as a pentamethylene radical (i.e. e-caprolactam derivative, see Example 1, where modified polycaprolactam PA6 is disclosed, see Column 7, line 25).

In reference to claim 35, Myard teaches structure IIIb (see Column 4, line 30).

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In reference to claim 45, Myard teaches flame retardants, stabilizers, etc (see Column 6, line 5).

Regarding Claims 46-47, Myard teaches reinforcing yarns, such as natural yarn, hemp or flax yarns (see Column 6, line 15).

In reference to claims 48-49, Myard claims powdered polyamide (see Column 6, line 20).

Regarding claims 50-52, Myard teaches a continuous or chopped yarns and a composite, made by at least partial melting of the matrix yarn (see Column 6, lines 25 and 30) and the level of reinforcing material by weight of between 25 and 80% (see Column 6, line 45).

Claims 29-52 provisionally rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 22-42 of copending Application No. 10/565870.

Application No. 10/565870 claims an abrasion resistant yarn having the same components as ones of the application examined. In particular, Application No. 10/565870 claims 30-100% mol of the structure (I) and 0-70% of the structure (II) (see claim 22).

This is a provisional obviousness-type double patenting rejection.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to GREGORY LISTVOYB whose telephone number is (571)272-6105. The examiner can normally be reached on 10am-7pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, James Seidleck can be reached on (571) 272-1078. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

GL/GREGORY LISTVOYB/
Examiner, Art Unit 1796

